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DISTAMYCIN ANALOGS AS POTENTIAL ANTIMALARIALS. (U)
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Distamycin Analogs as Potential Antimalarials

Final Scientific Report

Henry Rapoport

September 1980

Supported by

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland 21701

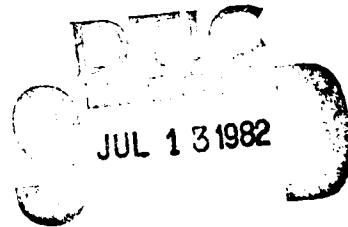
Contract No. DADA 17-73-C-3121

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
	AD-A116 812	
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) DISTAMYCIN ANALOGS AS POTENTIAL ANTIMALARIALS	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED FINAL 1 June 1973-30 June 1976	
	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER	
7. AUTHOR(s) Henry Rapoport	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) DADA17-73-C-3121	
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS University of California Berkeley, CA 94720	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS 62759A.3A162759A.00.084	
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS US Army Medical Research and Development Command Fort Detrick Frederick, MD 21701	12. REPORT DATE September 1980	
	13. NUMBER OF PAGES 4	
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(if different from Controlling Office)	15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified	
	15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE	
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Antimalarials; Distamycin; Permethyldistamycin; Acylamidines; Acylguanidines		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) New synthetic procedures have been developed which resulted in efficient syntheses of the permethyl analogues of distamycin, an antiviral antibiotic. Methods were also developed for selective acylations among amine, amidine, and guanidine functionalities. None of the compounds synthesized were effective against malarial.		

I. Narrative Summary

A synthesis has been developed of an analogue of distamycin A, a pyrrolic oligopeptide possessing antiviral and antibiotic activity, in which each of the three pyrrole rings is fully methylated. This structural modification results in pyrrole rings which are extraordinarily electron rich and required the development of a new synthetic approach to these polypyrrolic amides. The key reactions involved development of a general method for the synthesis of 3-aminopyrroles and for formation of an amide bond between a pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid and these 3-aminopyrroles. Since the acid is hindered, a poor electrophile, and acid sensitive, while the amine is unstable and a hindered, weak nucleophile, amide bond formation under the usual conditions was poor. A very efficient method, however, was developed involving the isolation of 1-hydroxybenzotriazole active ester prepared in situ from another active ester. Neither the mono-, di-, nor tripyrrolic permethyl analogues were effective antimalarials.

Since these compounds, and their relatives, contain both amino and amidino, or guanidino, functions, it was necessary to develop methods for unambiguous assignment of the site of acylation. This was done through a study of the ultra-violet absorption spectra of the acylated products. If the amidine or guanidine has been acylated, the product possesses a chromophore that is pH dependent, whereas if an amide was formed, the chromophore is independent of pH.

II. Bibliography

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Accession For	
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REPORT	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Availability Dates	
APRIL 1981	TO APRIL 1982
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